

Philip S. Thomas

Philip S. Thomas has worked in arts and culture for his entire professional career. He has worked exclusively in the field of producing, presenting, and touring the live performing arts. In addition, Philip has had a parallel focus on the training of young people in the performing arts disciplines of music, dance, drama, and musical theater.

As a result of his expertise and dedication, Mr. Thomas is recognized as a leader in the development and implementation of performing arts presentations, high quality theatrical events and community-based arts education programming by the New Jersey and national arts community, state and local government, and in the private sector.

Philip S. Thomas was the Executive Director of Newark Symphony Hall (May 2007-December 2011). Mr. Thomas joined the staff of Newark Symphony Hall and was responsible for launching a revitalization effort to return the complex to its former role as a major venue for hosting and presenting a full range of music, dance and theater performances. Newark Symphony Hall consists of the Sarah Vaughan Concert Hall (2,800 seats), Terrace Ballroom (1,000 seats), the Newark Stage (220 seats), and the Studio Theater (75 seats). Mr. Thomas provided oversight for the governance, human resource, finance, marketing, development, rental, programming, and capital operations of the venue.

Philip S. Thomas was the Vice President of Arts Education at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) until March 2005. NJPAC is the 6th largest performing arts center in the United States and consists of Prudential Hall (2,800 seats), the Victoria Theater (514 seats), the Chase Room (300 seats), and the Lucent Technologies Center for Arts Education - Black Box Theater (110 seats). Mr. Thomas joined NJPAC in 1992 as the Founding Director for Arts Education and was responsible for developing a comprehensive Arts Education Department for NJPAC that includes a \$3.5 million annual budget and 18 full-time staff members. Mr. Thomas also served on the team responsible for the \$4.5 million renovation of the Lucent Technologies Center for Arts Education (a 29,000 sq. ft. arts education facility.)

In 1985, Mr. Thomas was Founder and Artistic Director of the Carter G. Woodson Foundation (CGWF), a multi-disciplinary arts organization located in Newark, New Jersey. The primary objective of CGWF was to increase performance opportunities, and earned income for African American theater, dance, music and literary artists by providing performance opportunities and marketing support. During his seven years of leadership, he administered Black Culture on Tour in America, which was a national touring program, OnStage in New Jersey which was a statewide performing arts series, and coordinated arts education programs in New Jersey local school districts.

In 1984, Mr. Thomas joined the Newark Board of Education as a grants analyst in the Division of Grants Development. His responsibilities included: researching government, foundation and corporate grant resources and priorities; writing grant proposals and applications; and, managing approved grant awards and preparing final narrative and budget reports.

Mr. Thomas joined the staff of Newark Symphony Hall in 1982 as Director of Marketing. He held direct supervision over corporate special events, public relations, printed literature, press coverage, advertising and audience research. New projects introduced by Mr. Thomas included: the Friends of Newark Symphony Hall, Performance Time for Young People, annual celebrations in honor of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Black History Month, and the Season Debut press and public relations event to announce the upcoming season of programs.

In 1980, Mr. Thomas was Founder of the Urban Arts Program and the Arts Development Services Programs for the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, which provided management training and skills development opportunities for New Jersey arts organizations and individual artists.

In 1977, Mr. Thomas was Founder of the Greater Paterson Arts Council, a local arts organization in Paterson, New Jersey that presented dance, theater, and music performances and provided technical assistance services to performing and visual artists.

Education:	Winthrop University	M.A. Degree Arts Administration	2017
	Montclair State University	B.A. Degree in Theater	1977
Military Service:	United States Army	Vietnam Veteran	1965-1967
Vietnam Veteran:	Mr. Thomas was the recipient of the Purple Heart and two Bronze Stars.		

Professional Employment

Newark Symphony Hall, Newark	Executive Director	2007-2012
Bergen Performing Arts Center (bergenPAC)	Consultant	2005-2006
New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Newark	Vice President of Arts Education	1992-2005
Carter G. Woodson Foundation, Newark	President / Artistic Director	1985-1992
Newark Public Schools, Newark	Grants Development Specialist	1984-1985
Newark Symphony Hall, Newark	Director of Marketing	1982-1984
New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Trenton	Urban Arts Coordinator	1980-1981
	Arts Development Coordinator	1981-1982
Greater Paterson Arts Council, Paterson	Executive Director	1977-1980

Consultant

Ohio Arts Council	1990-1992
Pennsylvania Council on the Arts	1986-1990
New Jersey State Council on the Arts	1983-1989
National Endowment for the Arts	1977-1987

Boards and Service

Arts and Science Council (ASC) (Member, Investment Committee)	2017-2022
Leadership Newark (Selection Committee)	1998-2009
Education Law Center (Board of Directors)	1999-2008
Montclair State University - College of the Arts (Advisory Board)	1998-2007
New Jersey Black Issues Convention (Chair – Cultural Task Force)	1983-2006
Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation (Education Advisory Board)	1999-2004
New Jersey State Council on the Arts (Commissioner)	1991-1994
Association of Performing Arts Presenters (Board of Directors)	1991-1994
Newark Arts Council (Board President)	1991-1992
Network of Cultural Centers of Color	1989-1992
Newark Boys Chorus School (Member - Board of Directors)	
Alliance for Arts Education – New Jersey (Member - Board of Directors)	
New Jersey Institute for School Innovation (Member - Board of Directors)	

Awards and Recognition (Partial Listing)

Newark Boys Chorus – Parent Advisory Board Award	2005
WISOMMM Arts & Culture Award	2004
Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company	2003
New Jersey Tap Ensemble	2003
Union County Educational Services Foundation	2003
NAACP Gold Life Membership	2003
Organization of African American Administrators	2003
New Jersey State Legislature	2003
City of Newark - Community Service Award	2003
Leadership New Jersey - Arts Leadership Award	2002

Newark School of the Arts – Sweet Arts Award	1999
100 Most Influential in New Jersey	1996
WCBS-TV Fulfilling the Dream Award	1995
Leadership New Jersey (Fellow)	1989
National Endowment for the Arts - Fellowship	1976
Frontiers International	
Friend of Senator Wynona Lipman	
Jersey City Public Library - Community Awareness Series	
Essex County Youth Advocate Program	
Newark-West Ward Cultural Center	

Producer, Presenter, Program Development and Implementation (Partial Listing 1985 - 2011)

Newark Symphony Hall

Jazz Marathon	2008
Children's Performing Arts Academy	2008-2011
Soul Line Dance Party	2009
Reimagined: Newark Symphony Hall Preservation Conference	2010
Rhoda Scott: Renowned Jazz Organist Concerts	2011

New Jersey Performing Arts Center

Verizon Passport to Culture Performance Series	1997-2005
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration	1998-2005
Kwanzaa Festival and Marketplace	1997-2004
Jazz for Teens - Music Education Program	1997-2004
Star-Ledger Scholarship for the Performing Arts	1997-2004
Jeffrey Carollo Music Scholarship Fund	1997-2004
Summer Youth Performance Workshop	1995-2004
Summer Musical Theater Productions	1997-2004
<i>Carousel</i> (1998)	
<i>Oliver</i> (1999)	
<i>Brigadoon</i> (2000)	
<i>Once on this Island</i> (2001)	
<i>South Pacific</i> (2002)	
<i>West Side Story</i> (2003)	
<i>Anything Goes</i> (2004)	
Arts Academy Artists-In-Residency Program	1994-2004
NJPAC Jubilation Choir	1999-2003
NJPAC Jubilation Choir - CD Recording " <i>Spirit</i> "	2002
Youth Orchestra Festival	1998-2002
Arts Basic to the Curriculum Conference	1997-2002

Carter G. Woodson Foundation

Black Culture on Tour in America	1985-1992
On Stage in New Jersey - Performance Series	1986-1992
Artists-In-The-Schools Program	1987-1992

Artists and Companies Presented (Partial Listing 1985 - 2005)

Dance (Partial Listing)

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
American Ballet Theater (Studio Company)
Momix
New Jersey Ballet
American Repertory Ballet

Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company
Philadelphia Dance Company (Philadanco)
Dayton Contemporary Dance Company
Cleo Parker Robinson Dance
Dinizulu African Dancers, Drummers and Singers
Le Ballet Jazz de Montreal
Taylor 2 (Paul Taylor Dance Company)
Muntu African Dance Theater of Chicago
Carolyn Dorfman Dance Company
UMOJA Dance Company
New Jersey Tap Ensemble
Deeply Rooted dance Company
Kankouran West African Dance Company
Harambee Dance Company
Ko Thi Dance Company
Kule Mele African Dance and Drum Ensemble

Literary Arts (Partial Listing)

Sonia Sanchez
Nikki Giovanni
Maya Angelou
Amiri and Amina Baraka
Gwendolyn Brooks
Ruby Dee & Ossie Davis
Terri McMillan
Toni Morrison
Mari Evans
Haki Madhubuti

Jazz (Partial Listing)

Carmen McRae
James Moody
Abbey Lincoln
Kenny Garrett
McCoy Tyner
Bobby Hutcherson
Roy Haynes
Take 6
Benny Golson
Ron Carter

Gospel (Partial Listing)

Donnie McClurkin
Vicki Winans
Kurt Carr and the Carr Singers
Darryl Coley
Shirley Caesar
Walter Hawkins
Dorothy Norwood
Cissy Houston
Rev. Lawrence C. Roberts
Sweet Honey in the Rock
Fisk Jubilee Singers
Tramaine Hawkins
Richard Smallwood

Artists and Companies Presented (Partial Listing 1985 - 2005)

Latin (Partial Listing)

Ray Barretto
Eddie Palmieri
Hilton Ruiz
Manny Oquendo
Herman Olivera
Yomo Toro
Los Pleneros de la 21

Theater (Partial Listing)

Arts Power
Pushcart Players
Paper Bag Players
The Acting Company
National Theatre of the Deaf
John Amos ("Halley's Comet")
The Carpetbag Theater
Theatre Sans Fil
Mermaid Theater of Nova Scotia
National Black Touring Circuit
Aquila Theater Company of London
George Street Playhouse

Keynote Speakers (Partial Listing)

Dr. Howard Gardner
Dr. Leon Botstein
Hon. John Lewis
Hon. William Gray
Johnetta Coles
Rev. Bernice King
Yolanda King
Rev. DeForest Soaries
Dr. Elliot Eisner
Ossie Davis
Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi
Dr. Kenneth Robinson
Rev. Dr. Calvin O Butts, III
Gwendolyn E. Boyd
Molefi Kete Asante
Jawanza Kunjufu
Gil Noble

(October 18, 2023)